

## **1800's Baseball returns to Rochester**

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MUMFORD, NY, July 22, 2003 — Genesee Country Village & Museum announced today support from Monroe County that will expand its National Silver Ball Tournament, the Aug. 22-24 vintage baseball tournament featuring 14 teams from across the U.S., to include game play on two fields at Genesee Valley Park. The county's support will also allow the museum to offer a block of 200 free tournament tickets to the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester.

"Monroe County is pleased to be a partner in this exciting national tournament," said Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle. "I applaud Genesee Country Village & Museum for initiating this exciting 19th-century baseball program. It is a unique interpretation of the early history of our national pastime and is another example of the museum's engaging approach to telling America's story. I encourage everyone to come out to the games and enjoy a bit of sporting history."

Monroe County's sponsorship of \$5,000 comes through the Sports Development Authority and COMIDA.

"We couldn't be more pleased by the county's continuation of support for the museum," said Betsy Harrison, museum president and CEO. "Their willingness to provide public support for this new endeavor reinforces our decision to stage one of the finest vintage baseball tournaments in the nation, right here in Monroe County."

"To have a national tournament taking place at Genesee Valley Park and this generous donation of admissions tickets from the museum, will give our children and their families an extraordinary experience in the early history of baseball," said Roy Melvin, director of family support service for the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, Inc. "A winning combination of sport and education."

Tournament play will begin on Friday, Aug. 22 at 12:30 p.m., simultaneously at two fields at Genesee Valley Park and at the museum in Mumford, which features Silver Baseball Park, the only replica of an 1800's baseball park in the nation (named for 20th-century Rochester baseball legend Morrie Silver). Friday games will end at approximately 5:45 p.m., and will run again on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. On Sunday, August 24, the tournament championship will be held at Silver Baseball Park at 1:30 p.m. A total of 28 games will be played over the course of the three days by clubs ranging from the Cincinnati Red Stockings and the Brooklyn Atlantics to the museum's own four teams.

At both locations, the tournament will feature daily hands-on baseball activities for all ages. Fans will also have the opportunity to mingle with the ball players as part of two events: a Friday evening dinner at Frontier Field, including a game between the Red Wings and the Pawtucket Red Sox with post-game

fireworks; and a Saturday evening banquet featuring awards and speakers from the world of vintage and modern baseball.

All games at the museum are included with a museum day pass. Three-day tournament passes are available for \$28 and include admission to games at Genesee Valley Park and the museum.

Honorary co-chairs of the tournament are Naomi Silver, chairman & COO of Rochester Community Baseball, and Curt Smith, baseball author and radio/TV host. Gov. George Pataki is a member of the honorary tournament committee with Sen. James Alesi; baseball author and historian Priscilla Astifan; Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle; James Duffus; Genesee Country Village & Museum president & CEO Betsy Harrison; Vintage Baseball Assoc. president Mark Heppner; Time Warner Cable president Jeffrey Hirsch; Assemblywoman Susan John; Rochester Mayor William Johnson; SUNY chancellor Robert L. King; Rochester Community Baseball president & CEO Gary Larder; Assemblyman Joseph Morelle; Democrat & Chronicle sports columnist and author Scott Pitoniak; Rich Products Corp. president Robert Rich, Jr.; Sen. Joseph Robach; and Nick Robfogel of Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

Genesee Country Village & Museum is one of the nation's largest living history museums, with 67 historic structures from all around New York. Its 19th-century village is filled with costumed villagers going about the essential tasks and trades that bring 1800s America to life.

It also includes the Genesee Country Nature Center, with five miles of interpreted trails, and the John L. Wehle Gallery of Wildlife and Sporting Art, home to the collection called by *Wildlife Art Magazine* "one of the finest in the world."

**Hours:** The Genesee Country Village & Museum is open May – October from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. and until 5 p.m. weekends and every day from July – Labor Day.

**Admission:** \$12.50 for ages 17-61; \$9.50 for ages 62+ or students with a valid ID; \$7 for ages 4-16; free for ages 3 and under and for Genesee Country Village & Museum members. Day passes are good for two consecutive weekdays. A family maximum price of \$46 is available for members of the same household. **Gallery-only admission:** \$5 adults, \$4 seniors & students, \$3 ages 4-16, free to children 3 and under, museum members and with general admission. **Nature Center-only admission:** adults, \$3; seniors, \$2.50; youth ages 4-16, \$2; free to children 3 and under, museum members and with general admission.

**Location:** 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumford, N.Y., 20 miles southwest of Rochester and 45 miles east of Buffalo.

**Web Address:** [www.geneseecountryvillage.org](http://www.geneseecountryvillage.org)